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Serial No. 09/723,868
Docket No. FANEUF 00.02
Amendment E

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 23-25. Please amend claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 21 and 22, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for holding a fish, comprising:
a molded plastic clip having ~~two or more opposing protrusions~~ first and second arms coupled to and rotatable about a spacer, the first and second arms having first and second protrusions respectively adjacent their distal ends moveable between a first position and a second position, the distal ends of the first and second arms being ~~protrusions~~ urged towards one another by a biasing member to create a gripping force between the first and second protrusions, in the first position, the gripping force capable of holding a fish by a lip without punching a hole in the fish, a third protrusion extending from the spacer for preventing a fish from being inserted too far onto the clip, and a ledge spaced from the spacer for restricting movement of the biasing member; and

a length of rope having a loop formed at a first end, the loop securing the rope to the clip, the loop capable of exerting a force on the biasing member thereby increasing the gripping force.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first, second and third arms, the first and second protrusions and the biasing member are molded as one piece.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope is a braided hollow polypropylene.

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Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the loop is formed by inserting the first end of the rope inside the hollow rope a spaced distance from the first end.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope comprises a second end, the second end forming a loop to assist in holding the rope.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rope comprises a second end, the second end comprising a marker for indicating the weight of an attached fish.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second protrusions are angled towards the biasing member.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second protrusions further comprise a plurality of grooves to assist in the holding of the fish.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An apparatus for holding a fish, comprising:

a clip formed of two or more molded plastic elongated rigid members, the rigid members having a first end and a second end, the rigid members each having a gripping portion at the first end for holding a fish by a lip without punching a hole in the fish, the rigid members rotatable about a spacer located between the first ends and the second ends, a biasing member coupled to the rigid members urging the second ends to move away from one another and the first ends to move towards one another, a protrusion extending from the spacer for preventing a fish from being inserted too far onto the clip, and a ledge spaced from the spacer for restricting movement of the biasing member; and

a length of rope coupled to the biasing member, the rope capable of exerting a force on

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the biasing member further urging the second ends of the rigid members to move away from one another.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rigid members, the spacer, and the biasing member are molded as one piece.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope is a braided hollow polypropylene.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the rope has a loop formed at a first end of the rope, the loop coupling the rope to the clip.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the loop is formed by inserting the first end of the rope inside the hollow rope a spaced distance from the first end.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope comprises a second end, the second end forming a loop to assist in holding the rope.

Claim 20 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rope is adapted to float on the surface of water.

Claim 21 (currently amended): An apparatus for holding a fish, comprising:

a molded plastic clip having a first member and a second member coupled to and pivotal about a spacer, a first ~~protrusions~~ protrusion disposed at a first end of the first member and a second protrusion disposed at a first end of the second member, the first and second protrusions extending towards each other and angled towards the spacer, the ~~opposing~~ first and second protrusions being moveable between a first position and a second position, a biasing member

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spaced from the spacer, the biasing member having a first end coupled to a second end of the first member and a second end in sliding contact with the second member, the biasing member causing the first and second protrusions to move towards each other to create a gripping force between the first and second protrusions capable of holding a fish by a lip without punching a hole in the fish; and

a third protrusion extending from the spacer for preventing a fish from being inserted too far onto the clip; and

a length of rope having a loop formed at a first end, the loop securing the rope to the clip, the loop capable of exerting a force on the biasing member thereby increasing the gripping force.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The apparatus for holding a fish of claim 21, wherein the first and second protrusions have a plurality of grooves to assist in the gripping of the fish.

Claims 23-25 (canceled)

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